Reply to Office Action of 01/27/06

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A body comprising a nut retaining apparatus mounted thereon for

fastening a bolt to the body, the bolt being inserted into a bolt insertion hole at an end surface of

the body from a in a predetermined inclined direction inclined with respect to a direction tangent

to the end surface of the body,

wherein the nut retaining apparatus comprises a nut retainer and a nut holder,

the nut retainer positioned at an insertion end of the bolt insertion hole in the body and

against which a nut member having a threaded hole abuts, and

the nut holder mounted on the body for supporting the nut member in the inclined

direction.

wherein the nut member is retained and supported in the predetermined inclined direction

at a position between the nut retainer and nut holder and continuous with the bolt insertion hole:

<u>and</u>

wherein, when the bolt is fastened to the nut member, a fastening force is applied directly

to the body and not to the nut holder.

2. (Previously presented) The body according to claim 1, wherein the nut holder comprises an

engaging portion engaging with the body, and a side surface support portion supporting a side

surface of the nut member, and an end surface support portion supporting an end surface of the

nut member.

3. (Previously presented) The body according to claim 2, wherein the side surface support

portion forms a V-shaped groove.

4. (Previously presented) The body according to claim 2, wherein the end surface support portion

2

Serial No.: 10/812,360

Reply to Office Action of 01/27/06

includes a bolt insertion hole in communication with the threaded hole of the nut member.

5. (Previously presented) The body according to claim 1, wherein the nut holder is mounted to

the body from below the body.

6. (Previously presented) The body according to claim 2, wherein the nut holder is mounted to

the body from below the body.

7. (Previously presented) The body according to claim 1, wherein the nut holder is made of resin.

8. (Previously presented) The body according to claim 1, wherein the nut retainer includes a side

surface retainer for contact with a side surface of the nut member, and an end surface retainer for

contact with an end surface of the nut member.

9. First Occurrence (Previously presented) The body according to claim 2, wherein the nut

retainer includes a side surface retainer for contact with a side surface of the nut member, and an

end surface retainer for contact with an end surface of the nut member.

9. Second Occurrence (Canceled)

10. (Previously presented) The body according to claim 6, wherein the nut retainer includes a

side surface retainer for contact with a side surface of the nut member, and an end surface

retainer for contact with an end surface of the nut member.

11. (Previously presented) The body according to claim 1, wherein the body is made of

aluminum by die casting.

12. (Previously presented) The body according to claim 1, wherein the nut retaining apparatus is

part of a member coupling device for coupling a lateral frame member to the end surface of the

3

Serial No.: 10/812.360

Reply to Office Action of 01/27/06

body.

13. (Currently Amended) The body according to claim 12, wherein the end surface of the body

includes a positioning section, a-the bolt is fastened to the nut member, thereby bringing the

lateral frame member into abutment against the positioning section, and the member coupling

device couples the pipe member while positioning the lateral frame member.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A body comprising a nut holder for fastening a bolt to the body, the

bolt being inserted into an end surface of the body from a <u>predetermined inclined</u> direction

inclined with respect to a direction tangent to the end surface of the body, wherein the nut holder

is mounted on the body in the <u>predetermined</u> inclined direction from the inserting direction of the

bolt in a state wherein the a nut member is supported in the predetermined inclined direction,

thereby holding the nut member in a predetermined position; and wherein, when the bolt is

fastened to the nut member, a fastening force is applied directly to the body and not to the nut

holder.

16. (Previously presented) The body according to claim 15, further comprising an engaging

portion capable of engaging with the body, a side surface support portion supporting a side

surface of the nut member, and an end surface support portion for supporting an end surface of

the nut member.

17. (Previously presented) The body according to claim 16, wherein the side surface support

portion forms a V-shaped groove.

18. (Previously presented) The body according to claim 17, wherein the end surface support

portion includes a bolt insertion hole through which the bolt can be inserted.

4

Serial No.: 10/812,360

Reply to Office Action of 01/27/06

19. (Previously presented) The body according to claim 15, wherein the nut holder is mounted on the body from below the body.

- 20. (Previously presented) The body according to claim 16, wherein the nut holder is mounted on the body from below the body.
- 21. (Previously presented) The body according to claim 15, wherein the nut holder is made of resin.
- 22. (Previously presented) The body according to claim 5, wherein the nut retainer includes a side surface retainer for contact with a side surface of the nut member, and an end surface retainer for contact with an end surface of the nut member.